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LETTER DATED 19 APRIL 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF UKRAINE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith, the text of the Appeal by the employees of the Ukrainian Danube Shipping Company addressed to you in connection with the special economic problems arising from the carrying out by Ukraine of the Security Council sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) (see annex).

I kindly request Your Excellency to have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Victor H. BATIOUK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: Russian]

Appeal

The sailors and other employees of the Ukrainian Danube Shipping Company have great respect for the United Nations and the Secretary-General.

The highly complex problems facing our company - the largest Ukrainian shipping company on the Danube - and the huge economic losses that it is incurring as a result of the tightening of the embargo against Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) have prompted us to make this Appeal.

Since the sanctions went into effect, the Ukrainian Danube Shipping Company has not once violated the embargo. Security Council resolutions 757 (1992) and 787 (1992) are being strictly implemented, a fact that can be attested by representatives of United Nations missions in Ukraine and other countries of the Danube.

While we support the decisions of the international community, we believe that the application of sanctions against one country should not result in heavy economic losses and moral suffering for other countries.

As a result of the increasingly stringent measures and the imperfect regulating and monitoring mechanism, our company's fleet has virtually halted its commercial shipping on the Danube. Ukrainian export and import shipping on the Danube in bilateral trade with Hungary, Slovakia, Austria and Germany are paralysed. Also paralysed is our company's traditional transport of cargo in transit from the aforementioned countries to ports of the Mediterranean and Red Seas, India and South-East Asia.

Our cruise line operating on the Danube "from the Alps to the Black Sea", which for 30 years has been popular among Europeans and Americans, has been halted.

Because of shipping delays, losses have been incurred not only by our foreign partners but by suppliers - Ukrainian metallurgical combines and coal mines.

The economic losses - both actual and those which will be incurred by the end of 1993 - from the halting of shipping on the Danube are estimated at US$ 350 million. The current idleness of our fleet is leading to the bankruptcy of the company, whose fixed assets total over US$ 2 billion, unemployment and the loss of livelihood for the 250,000 employees of the company and the more than 100,000 members of their families.

In the light of the foregoing, we demand compensation for our losses.

In its efforts to find optimal arrangements for implementing United Nations resolutions, our company has, on more than one occasion, initiated multilateral meetings with all interested parties. In the port of Izmail, the conditions necessary for the work of the United Nations mission were created.

Unfortunately, all our hopes that it would be possible to ensure normal work on the Danube, under the supervision of the mission, have not been met.

The Ukrainian Danube Shipping Company urgently appeals to you to provide assistance, within the shortest possible time, in elaborating a rational and efficient mechanism for monitoring cargo in transit along the Danube through Yugoslav waters, and effectively coordinate the actions undertaken by all representatives of United Nations missions.

We sincerely hope that all countries Members of the United Nations will understand the extremely complicated situation in which the Ukrainian Danube Shipping Company finds itself as a result of the application and tightening of the sanctions against Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

This Appeal was adopted at a collective meeting of the sailors and other employees of the Ukrainian Shipping Company on 13 April 1993.

(Signed) A. F. TEKHOV
General Director of the Ukrainian
Danube Shipping Company